

PLAN FOR NIKE NET DEFENDED BY U.S.

It Tells Geneva Parley Move
Will Enhance Prospects of
Pact to Bar Atom Spread

By THOMAS J. HAMILTON

Special to The New York Times

GENEVA, Sept. 19 — The United States told the disarmament conference today that its decision to establish an anti-ballistic missile network would help meet this demand against Chinese Communist attack should improve the prospects for the proposed treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Adrian S. Fisher, Deputy Director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, emphasized that the United States would continue to press for any possibility of a successful "an equitable nonproliferation treaty."

He added that the "limited" deployment "should not in any way decrease the desirability of the treaty to other nations."

Aleksei A. Roshchin, the Soviet representative, informed correspondents after the session that the United States delegation had been made in the wrong forum.

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decision would not harm the prospect of a treaty to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The joint draft was submitted to the 17-nation conference last month.

[In London, British officials voiced the view that the Johnson Administration's decision to build the shield of anti-missile missiles had probably dealt a death blow to the treaty.]

Mr. Fisher, addressing himself to India, Japan and other countries that have been urging the United States and the Soviet Union to give them guarantees against nuclear attack by China, said that the network would help meet this demand.

He said he believed that, to the extent that the antiballistic missile deployment affected the "security considerations of other countries," it would "favor nonproliferation."

'Further Assurance'

"The deployment," Mr. Fisher explained, "will foreclose any possibility of a successful Chinese nuclear attack on the United States and will thereby provide further assurance of our determination to support our Asian friends against Chinese nuclear blackmail."

The Soviet representative remarked that since the question of antiballistic missile system was a matter for direct negotiation between Washington and Moscow, Mr. Fisher's statement had been made in the wrong forum.

In any event, Mr. Roshchin, who was in a cheerful mood, echoed the prediction Friday by William C. Foster, chief United States representative, that the conference would successfully conclude its consideration of the entire draft. Before the conference can do so, the United States and the Soviet Union will have to settle their long disagreement over the missing inspection article.

Unlike Mr. Foster, who had said that the work could be completed in a few weeks, Mr. Roshchin said he could not predict the outcome.

Although it is accepted that the two newest members of the "nuclear club," France and Communist China, will not sign the United States-Soviet draft, it contains no security guarantee. Mr. Foster disclosed Friday that Washington would like to see a "United Nations solution" of the security issue.

Settlement of the security and inspection questions remains dependent on the continued cooperation of the United States and Soviet delegations in the disarmament conference and in the UN General Assembly. The conference will submit whatever agreement it is able to reach to the Assembly this fall.

Mr. Fisher, repeating secretary of defense Robert S. McNamara's assurances of yesterday, emphasized that the network was intended to convince the Chinese that they could not successfully attack the United States and that it was not directed at the Soviet Union.

However, Mr. Fisher conceded that the network would supply "added protection if United States retaliatory forces," which would be required in the event of a nuclear war.

He again made it clear that Washington wanted negotiations with Moscow on both

offensive and defensive nuclear weapons. He concluded with the statement that the United States wanted the Chinese to submit over the years, including a cutoff in the production of nuclear weapons and a prohibition on underground tests of them.

The only other speaker was Jorge Castaneda of Mexico, who gave his general support to the United States-Soviet draft. He urged that it be amended to include more precise commitments on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy by nonnuclear signatories and on the intentions of the nuclear powers to proceed with disarmament.

British Are Pessimistic

By SYDNEY GRUSON

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Sept. 19 — The British Government believes the

Johnson Administration's decision to build a shield of anti-missile missiles to guard against race and could have "dangerous" consequences for arms control and disarmament.

In its official comment on the action announced yesterday by Defense Secretary McNamara, the Government stopped short of saying this but private comment by leading officials made the Government's disappointment and fear manifest.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the British understood the reasons for and the difficulties of the Americans' decision. But he added, "we have always explained both to them and to the Russians the adverse consequences to which, in our view, such a deployment will lead."

Even a limited deployment of anti-missile missiles, on life for the British. They can

not afford what they consider such without adequate concern for others.

British Not Forewarned

There has been considerable United States-British discussion over the years on the anti-missile missile problem. But the Government was unaware of Washington's decision to go ahead with a thin-line system until it was informed by Eugene V. Rostow, Under Secretary of State, last Thursday.

Because it seems to the British that the decision and the announcement were rushed, they believe that the move is being taken for domestic reasons rather than to meet a Chinese threat — the purpose stated by Mr. McNamara.

deploy. The British lag behind the United States and the Soviet Union will be increased, with resultant psychological and political problems for any British government.

In the British view, the American decision will be interpreted at the disarmament conference in Geneva as a "shift in the disparity" between the nuclear haves and have-nots.

The disparity argument was heard in Geneva even before the Russians decided earlier this year to build a ballistic shield of their own. Now, the British expect, nonnuclear nations that oppose the treaty will contend that the super-powers are making themselves defensible against nuclear at-

Worries of Perils

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.,

Sept. 19 — Secretary General Thant has warned that the "delicate balance of stability" between the Soviet Union and the United States could be upset by a new race to develop missile networks.

"There is a very grave danger that the nuclear arms race may be pushed to unimaginable levels by a new race for anti-missile missiles, anti-anti-missile missiles and the whole new armory of weapons and counterweapons," the Secretary General said.

The warning was in his annual report to the 122 member states, which was drafted several days ago and issued to